



March 5, 2021

Connecticut General Assembly
Joint Committee on Judiciary

Via email: judgetestimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

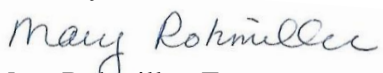
We write to express our strong support for **HB 6321**, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA). Family Equality is a nationwide organization that advocates to advance legal and lived equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) families and those who wish to form them, and we support many families in Connecticut. The CPA is essential legislation to ensure that all of Connecticut's children, regardless of the circumstances of their birth or the marital status, gender, or sexual orientation of their parents, have equal access to the security and benefits of legally recognized parent-child relationships.


Although historically Connecticut has been a leader in protecting families and children, including children raised by same-sex couples, the law is outdated. Under current Connecticut law, there are no pathways to recognize legal parentage for unmarried, non-biological parents, resulting in legal vulnerabilities for their children. The CPA fills this gap in existing law, opening pathways to legal security for non-biological parents, which in turns ensures they are able to make medical and educational decisions, provide health insurance and other benefits, and pass inheritance rights to their children. Importantly, the CPA allows LGBTQ families to access parentage through an Acknowledgement of Parentage, a simple administrative route that eases burden and expense and allows LGBTQ parents to protect their child at birth, at the hospital.

The CPA also creates clear standards to protect all involved in the surrogacy process, including intended parents and the person acting as surrogate. By securing the relationship between intended parents and their children, all children born through assisted reproductive technology are protected. As Connecticut has the second highest rate of births through assisted reproduction in the country, these protections are critical for many children.

We urge the Committee to support this important legislation that incorporates best practices of parentage law. Children cannot control the circumstances of their birth, and by allowing *all* of Connecticut's children to have equal access to the security, protections, and benefits of legal recognition of their parent-child relationship, the CPA reflects the diversity of modern family structures.

Sincerely,


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